

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent and have been amended herein. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The drawings were objected to because Figures 1A, 1B, and 2 should be designated as --Prior Art--. In response, Applicants have corrected the drawings in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled. Accordingly, this rejection is deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0090750 (Takahashi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,862,039 (Shimizu). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Shimizu and U.S. Patent No. 7,133,070 (Wheeler et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Takahashi relates to a method and apparatus for correcting white balance and estimating a color temperature of a photographing light source. Takahashi uses gray and/or skin color information contained in an input color image. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Takahashi does not disclose or suggest at least specifying a color temperature of a light source on the basis of correction values corresponding to respective skin colors of persons, registered on a person basis, an output signal of an image device (or an image signal) within an instructed area and a correction value corresponding to a skin color of a selected person, as well as conducting white balance processing in accordance with a white balance coefficient that corresponds to the specified color temperature of the light source, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 8.

Thus, Takahashi fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Shimizu describes a camera that utilizes a color tone adjusting mode, with a guide for adjusting a color tone being shown on a monitor. One-push white balance can be performed on a particular area designated in an image screen. Wheeler et al. was cited for teaching voice-actuated input in a camera. However, these citations are not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Takahashi noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, Claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 8. Dependent Claims 2-7 are also

allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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